As a result of implementation of Special Foodgrains Production Programme, Foodgrains production in the State of Andhra Pradesh during 1988-89 increased to 129.92 lakh tonnes as against 99.00 lakh tonnes during 1987-88. For 1989-90, the production is estimated around 126.3 lakh tonnes. For 1990-91, a working target of 139.10 lakh tonnes of foodgrains has been kept.

Railway expansion projects in Andhra Pradesh

2698. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number and details of the railway expansion projects received for consideration from Andhra Pradesh Government during the last five years; and

(b) what action is being taken by Government on each of the said proposal during the same period?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Request for the following new railway lines have been received from the Government of Andhra Pradesh during the last 5 years.

1. Patancheru to Peddapalli.
2. Nizamabad to Ramagundam.
3. Nandayal to Yerraguntla.
4. Conversion of M.G. line into B.G. line from Guntur to Dronachellam and laying of parallel B.G. line from Kurnool Tower to Guntakal.
5. New B.G. line from Nadikude to Gudur Khalashasthi.
6. New B.G. railway line from Krishna to Vikarabad.
7. New B.G. railway line from Macherla to Raichur.
8. New B.G. Railway line from Nidubrolu to Nizampatnam.
9. Conversion of M.G. line into B.G. line from Tirupathi to Pakala and parallel B.G. line from Pakala to Katpadi.
10. New B G. line from Kakinada to Kotipalli.
11. New B.G. railway line from Kurnool to Secunderabad.
12. Rayadurg to Hindupur EG line.

Surveys in respect of items 1 to 10 have been completed and the projects found to be financially un-remunerative and therefore have not been taken up. Feasibility study in respect of item 11 has been sanctioned for taking up. Survey in respect of item 12 has not been sanctioned.

Number of railway accidents in South Central Zones

2699. SHRI TALARI MANOHAR: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the number of accidents which took place in South-Central Zone during the last six months;

(b) what are the reasons for increased number of accidents ; and

(c) what steps are being taken to avoid accidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) There were 33 train accidents on South-Central Railway during the period February 1990 to July 1990. These accidents were mainly due to failure of railway staff and equipment failure.

(c) Railways have a comprehensive on-going campaign to arrest the incidence of accidents. Some of the important measures are:—

(i) induction of technical devices to assist the human effort.

(ii) improvement in quality of maintenance of fixed and moving assets.

(iii) intensive and frequent inspections.